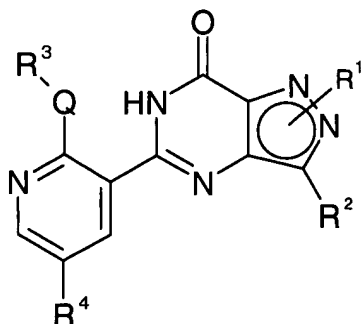


In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I):



I

or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt , polymorph and/or solvate thereof, wherein

Q represents O or NR<sup>5</sup>

R<sup>1</sup> represents H, lower alkyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl or alkylaryl (which latter five groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR<sup>6</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>7</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>9</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> and SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>)

R<sup>2</sup> represents H, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>6</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>7</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>9</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>, lower alkyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl or alkylaryl (which latter five groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR<sup>6</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>7</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>9</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> and SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>)

R<sup>3</sup> represents H, lower alkyl, alkylHet or alkylaryl (which latter three groups are all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, OR<sup>6</sup>, OC(O)R<sup>7</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>9</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup> and SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>14</sup>R<sup>15</sup>)

R<sup>4</sup> represents H, halo, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>6</sup>, C(O)R<sup>8</sup>, C(O)OR<sup>9</sup>, C(O)NR<sup>10</sup>R<sup>11</sup>, NR<sup>12</sup>R<sup>13</sup>, NR<sup>16</sup>Y(O)R<sup>17</sup>, N[Y(O)R<sup>17</sup>]<sub>2</sub>, S(O)R<sup>18</sup>, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>19</sup>, C(O)AZ, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, Het, alkylHet, aryl, alkylaryl (which latter seven groups are

all optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from halo, cyano, nitro, lower alkyl,  $OR^6$ ,  $OC(O)R^7$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)NR^{10}R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{12}R^{13}$  and  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ )

Y represents C or S(O)

A represents lower alkylene

Z represents  $OR^6$ , Het or aryl (which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl,  $OR^6$ ,  $OC(O)R^7$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)NR^{10}R^{11}$ ,  $NR^{12}R^{13}$  and  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ )

$R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl,  $OR^6$ ,  $OC(O)R^7$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)NR^{10a}R^{11a}$ ,  $NR^{12}R^{13}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$  and  $NR^{20}S(O)_2R^{21}$  or Het or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of said latter thirteen groups) or one of  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  may be lower alkoxy, amino or Het, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

$R^{10a}$  and  $R^{11a}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, lower alkyl,  $OR^6$ ,  $OC(O)R^7$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $NR^{12}R^{13}$ ,  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$  and  $NR^{20}S(O)_2R^{21}$  or Het or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of said latter thirteen groups) or one of  $R^{10a}$  and  $R^{11a}$  may be lower alkoxy, amino or Het, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

$R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from  $OR^6$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)NR^{22}R^{23}$  and  $NR^{24}R^{25}$ ), one of  $R^{12}$  or  $R^{13}$  may be C(O)-lower alkyl or C(O)Het (in which Het is optionally substituted with lower alkyl), or  $R^{12}$  and  $R^{13}$  together represent  $C_{3-7}$  alkylene (which alkylene group is optionally unsaturated, optionally substituted by one or more lower alkyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by O or  $NR^{26}$ )

$R^{14}$  and  $R^{15}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl or  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{15}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a heterocyclic ring

$R^{16}$  and  $R^{17}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from  $OR^6$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ ,  $C(O)NR^{22}R^{23}$  and  $NR^{24}R^{25}$ ) or one of  $R^{16}$  and  $R^{17}$  may be Het or aryl, which latter two groups are both optionally substituted with lower alkyl

$R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}$  and  $R^{25}$  independently represent H or lower alkyl

$R^{18}$  and  $R^{19}$  independently represent lower alkyl

$R^{21}$  represents lower alkyl or aryl

$R^{26}$  represents H, lower alkyl, aryl,  $C(O)R^{27}$  or  $S(O)_2R^{28}$

$R^{27}$  represents H, lower alkyl or aryl

$R^{28}$  represents lower alkyl or aryl

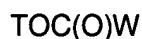
Het represents a four- to twelve-membered heterocyclic group, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from cyano, nitro, oxo, lower alkyl,  $OR^6$ ,  $OC(O)R^7$ ,  $C(O)R^8$ ,  $C(O)OR^9$ , and  $SO_2NR^{14}R^{15}$ , which group contains one or more heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulphur and mixtures thereof

said process comprising reacting, in an inert, alcoholic, or mixed inert/alcohol solvent, a compound of formula (III), (IV) or (V) in the presence of  $^-OR^3$  and a hydroxide trapping agent which is an ester of the formula

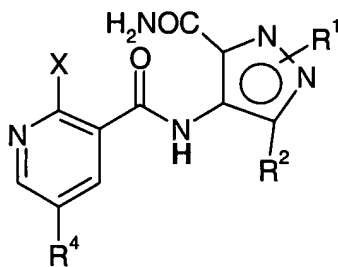


wherein OT is  $OR^3$  or OT is the residue of non-nucleophilic alcohol or TOH is an alcohol which can be azeotropically removed during the reaction;  
and  $C(O)W$  is the residue of a carboxylic acid;

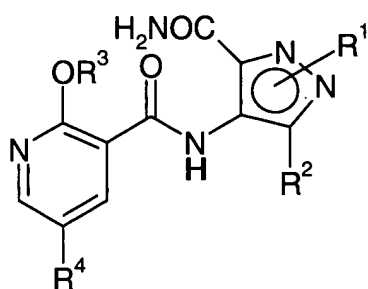
or, alternatively, in the case of compounds of formulae (IV) or (V) reacting, in an inert, alcoholic, or mixed inert/alcohol solvent and in the presence of an auxiliary base and a hydroxide trapping agent which is an ester of the formula



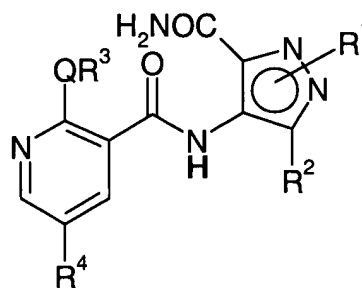
as defined above



(III)



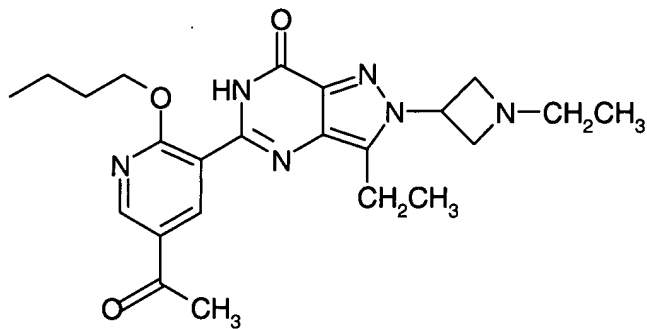
(IV)



(V)

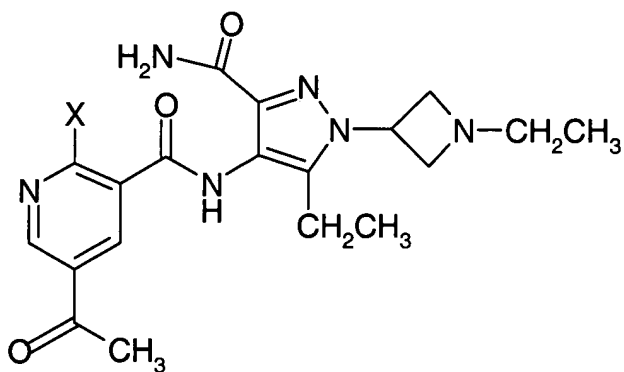
wherein X is a leaving group and Q and R<sup>1</sup> to R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above,  
provided that in said process, Q is not NR<sup>5</sup> when a compound of  
formula (III) or (IV) is used therein.

2. (Previously amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula  
(IA):

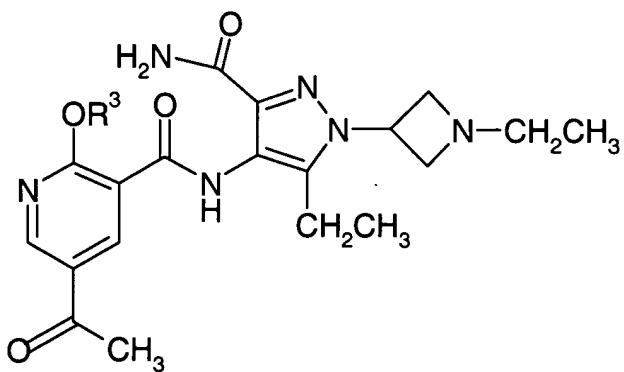


(IA)

said process comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIIA) or (IVA) respectively

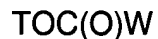


(IIIA)



(IVA)

in the presence of  $\text{OR}^3$  and a hydroxide trapping agent, which is an ester of the formula



wherein OT is  $\text{OR}^3$  or OT is the residue of non-nucleophilic alcohol or TOH is an alcohol which can be azeotropically removed during the reaction;  
and C(O)W is the residue of a carboxylic acid;

wherein  $\text{OR}^3$  is  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}-$ , or alternatively in the case of compounds of formula (IVA) reacting in the presence of a hydroxide trapping agent and an auxiliary base, wherein  $\text{OR}^3$  in the case of formation of compound (IA) from (IVA) is  $\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{O}-$  and wherein X in formulae (IIIA) is a leaving group.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 2 which comprises reacting a compound of formula (IIIA) wherein X is ethoxy in the presence of n-butyl acetate and potassium carbonate in n-butanol.